

The reading of the Declaration was interrupted throughout with the most telling applause, and during the reference to Governor Murray, a treble shout caused a halt in the delivery, while at the close the clapping continued for several minutes after Mr. Whitney had resumed his seat.

James Sharp moved that the meeting adopt the declaration and protest as read. Pending the adoption.

Mr. J. Q. Cannon, on being introduced to the meeting, spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am earnestly in favor of adoption as the sense of this mass meeting, the declaration of grievances and protest, which has been read. I trust it will receive the unanimous endorsement, not only of this vast assemblage, but also that of the entire, much-abused and greatly wronged community which inhabits these mountain valleys. It is indeed a strange movement in American history—this remonstrating of two hundred thousand citizens against the infliction and continuance of wrongs which freemen, the world over, would not sit calmly down and submit to—and it indicates a lamentable departure from the spirit and design of the noble men who gave us the system of government which we are so proud. It points weakness—nay, decay—is showing itself somewhere in the glorious fabric. It causes untold sorrow to those who are so powerless as to be made to suffer, and grave concern to those who desire to see our institutions perpetuated and our country's fair name remain unsullied.

But it makes easy the task of calling attention to the sad condition of the state of the true friend of good government, like the true friend of man, hesitates not to declaim against everything impure, debasing and demoralizing. Under such circumstances the patriot or the philanthropist regards it his bounden duty to bring all agencies into action to correct the evils which, unchecked, can only bring destruction and distress. Where the patriot is also the sufferer, love of country and liberty is reinforced by love of home and family life. If he then can tamely bow to, or at least acquiesce in, the sad condition of affairs, he is worse than craven—let this be said to those, if any such there be among us, who would shrink from the staining of motives and perhaps the unfavorable criticism which the taking of this step may involve. It is possible that there are some who doubt the wisdom of thus boldly presenting our case. There may be some who are unable to see wherein the innocent, as they call them, have any cause to complain; who could only wish that business was not quite so disturbed nor trade so dull; who can only anticipate from this movement one result—that those who put themselves on record as sympathizing with the accused class of the community will themselves be placed under the ban for their pains. They would recommend a graceful yielding to public pressure, a deference to the opinions of men hundreds of thousands of miles away, who know nothing for themselves of our practices and belief and who would erect their consciences as the unchangeable standard by which to judge our men's morality. Beware of such false friends. The nation can ill afford to number many such citizens. They are an element of weakness in any community or country of which they are a party. Their friendship is fickle as the wind, their patriotism a mere sentiment of expediency. Principle with them is outweighed by policy, and in order to preserve peace and avoid friction they would prefer to make any concession to crook the fragrant hinges of the knee at any despot's bidding. But the great bulk of our people are made of sterner stuff. They have not breathed in vain the pure, free air of the mountains in which they are entrenched, and have learned to most heartily hate every stripe of tyranny whether coming from the great or the insignificant. Our contempt for shallow-brained bigots is not lessened by the fact that such characters are sometimes made to judge and rule us. We do not build these men and we await, perhaps with impatience, the day of reckoning for all wrongs, which day is sure to come. We are not afraid to protest against that which we know to be wrong, and we do not propose to present our requests and state our grievances in cringing tones of supplication. We know the rights and privileges which we as free men are entitled to and we know they are denied us. It is necessary to dwell on the causes which make this struggle a compulsory one and which embolden us to venture it. We revere the memory of the fathers who protested and at last rebelled against the oppression which the parent government sought to exercise. We find much to admire in the manly stand they took in resisting each new imposition of obnoxious laws and regulations. We read with quick-drawn breath and bounding pulse of their seven long, trying years of fighting, weakened by hardship and bowed down with disappointment. We glory in their final triumph over every obstacle. Then when they had shaken off the foreign yoke and were free, without knowing exactly what to do with their freedom, and we wonder how they will use the prize so dearly won, our profoundest admiration is challenged by the glorious instrument which their brightest minds framed, and we thank God daily for such ancestors, such rare manhood and such a Constitution. We teach our children that the American flag is their flag, and that they must never brook an insult to it. They grow up to regard America as the land of the free, where every man is guaranteed every legitimate right. What must be their feelings when they see the fathers who taught them patriotism, hunted and persecuted like the wild fowl, and the pure mothers at whose knees they lisped their earliest prayers, branded with a name of infamy, and all under cover of a constitutional law? Who can expect them to maintain that high respect for the law which all should have, when they hear its officers declare that certain enactments are not aimed at vice? but at the practice of a principle of religion? How can they explain the acts of those who from pulpits, press and platform loudly demand the execution of the law in Utah, but who wink at greater evils nearer home, unless they are allowed to regard them as busy hypocrites? What can be said in defense of the heartless, hungry crowd who wish to see a whole community, industrious, happy and prosperous though they may be, rooted and scattered because a small percentage of their members are found to be living in a marital state which Congress declares to be criminal. A delegation representing 1,000 Christian ministers take it upon themselves to urge the President of the United

States to have the law here vigorously enforced. But why here only? Did they think the nation at large needed no correction of morals? Why at least was not the enforcement of the same law in all the Territories and even in the immaculate District of Columbia, where Congressmen, most of congressmen, asked for with equal earnestness.

These are some of the reasons. Many others might be mentioned, which impel me to give my vote for the adoption of this expression of our views. The times are perilous. The nation seems willing to have the safeguard of religious freedom stricken down in the case of the Mormons. We are disposed to protest against this. We owe it to ourselves and to our children to let our voices be heard in no uncertain sound upon this all important question. It might be smoothed over for a time, the day when the issue is to be made might be postponed. But no right-minded man in the community can entertain such an idea at any sacrifice of his manhood or his honor. We are sailing swiftly through treacherous channels and under lowering cliffs. Let us not be led into the error of attempting to shoot the rapids, for so sure as we do, we leave the whirlpool to our posterity.

The speaker was vociferously applauded throughout the entire delivery. J. W. Wells followed, and the following is a brief synopsis of his remarks: He said he felt the importance of the occasion which had called the people together. He felt that the wicked impositions of the Edmunds law, should be protested against, and especially the manner in which it was being carried out. The Mormons had been singled out and persecuted, because their homes were not constructed upon a plan which met with favor a thousand miles away. The Pilgrim Fathers and their cause were briefly referred to. The spirit which actuated them, was possessed by the people of Utah. He was the result of a polygamous marriage, but he queried if he hadn't as much right on the earth as any son of God who inhabited it. He didn't believe in royal birth in the land of democracy, but in the spirit of democracy. Because of their birth, the children of Mormons were held up before the nation as degraded. They were crowded now into a corner, and were expected to acknowledge their fathers had made a mistake; but as for him, he would maintain he had a right to be here; to acknowledge his parentage, for he knew his father was a man of honor and that his mother was a woman of virtue. (Deafening applause.) It was a prevalent idea abroad that the Mormon homes should be constructed upon the American ideas. He traced his ancestry back in this land for nine generations, but the name of his family would have been lost but for his father, who was a reformer. He hoped to live till the land should be full of that name. (Applause.) He contrasted the condition of families of monogamists of New England, and the healthy, numerous progeny of the polygamists. (Applause.) He was proud to say he belonged to an honorable and good family as was on the earth. (Applause.) The seventh section of the Edmunds law he referred to and asked its import, legitimizing children. If it did not by law legalize the marriages of their parents. The children of Mormons were children of men of honor and justice, who would provide for their offspring, and the section was not necessary to give them property rights. (Applause.) If the section was to give them such rights, it was kinder than those sent here to administer it would have their fathers be. "Honorable thy father and mother," etc., was more applicable now than ever. This land was given to them and they esteemed and loved it as the choicest of all lands, on condition of observing the ancient command. Our homes are worth more to us than life. The decision of the courts was considered final by outsiders. The law had declared a crime that which he knew as well as he knew that he was alive, was not a crime. (Applause.) And he expected to live to see that law repealed. When the day of justice comes, the sons and daughters of polygamists would be acknowledged as legitimate, and win the respect due to merit. (Thunderous applause followed Mr. Wells to his seat.)

Music by the band.

F. S. Richards followed, and the abbreviated report of his remarks is in substance as follows: He was in hearty sympathy with the present movement. That we are sorely aggrieved cannot be denied by any impartial person who will read the declaration and protest. Facts are there stated which should bring the blots of shame to the cheeks of those whose acts are denounced. A revolution was not designed by the present convention, but to declare that we were the sons and daughters of patriotic freemen who stamped their characters on the pillars of their age and poured their hearts' blood into the channels of the public prosperity that they might transmit to their children the precious heritage of civil and religious liberty. (Loud applause.)

We are not slaves but the peers of our fellow citizens. (Applause.) We utter no words of defiance, but solemnly protest against the indignities and oppressions heaped upon us. (Applause.) It had been said that 50,000 people had decided that a certain practice should be stopped. Legislation might be framed to punish past acts, but he knew of no principle of law which compelled a man to vouch for his future conduct. Yet it would seem that men were being punished because of their refusal to declare their intentions in that regard. There were persons who had entered into plural marriage before there was any law against it, and who had never violated any statute on the subject and yet they were being harassed, annoyed and persecuted. This seemed unjust and oppressive, but when we protest against it we are told that it is not a matter that concerned us unless we are members of the persecuted class. He hoped he would never see the day when the troubles of his people were not his own troubles. (Applause.)

These are our grievances. We are assembled as loyal American citizens asking for our rights. The Edmunds law could be divided in its operations into political and judicial parts. The Commission were sent here for the sole purpose of appointing registration and election officers. What did they do when they came here? They promulgated an offensive expurgatory oath, prescribed rules changing the laws of the Territory relating to elections, and illegally excluding from the polls thousands of legal voters. They were not content with exercising these legislative powers, but assumed the grave judicial responsibility of declaring void the acts of the Legislature which make the Territorial office elective, in order that these positions might be filled by the Governor's appointees. It was a gross usurpation of power. (Applause.) They had assumed to sit as a board and issued orders to register

and declared that they were here in behalf of the government for the purpose of suppressing polygamy. That authority was not in the act, unless they read it between the lines. He spoke of them as government officers and not as individuals for they were amiable gentlemen but what confidence could the people place in them in their public capacity after these acts? (Cries of "None! None!" and applause.) Mr. Richards reviewed the "marriage relation" clause in the oath and its being dropped out after the Supreme Court decision.

The court here has recently decided that the provisions of the Edmunds law which provide for the punishment of "any male person who cohabits with more than one woman" applies only to men who live with two or more women and hold them out to the world as wives, that the law is not the great moral measure which it was claimed to be, striking at immorality and sexual vice in every form, but that, while it prohibits cohabitation with more than one woman in the marriage relation, whether actual or only such in appearance, it does not in any way interfere with immoral practices outside of that relation. From this construction we now appeal to the great American people and ask them if they wish it to be recorded in history that this law was enacted for the sole purpose of destroying Mormon homes and families, and not to condemn lasciviousness and immorality. They would not believe they would sustain such a construction. (Applause.) Whatever may be the result of this movement, whether we obtain immediate redress or not, history will do us justice and time will fully vindicate our action to-day in the adoption of this declaration and protest. (Loud Applause.)

Prof. Daynes performed Governor Wright's March on the organ in an effective manner.

B. H. Rogers, of Davis county, was the next speaker, and spoke in the following strain, though the subjoined is only a brief report of his remarks. He said, we are to-day doing the duties of freemen. (Applause.) For whenever oppression shall rear its head, it became the duty of every freeman to resist the hand of tyranny. (Applause.) We cannot afford to sit idly by while one class of citizens was being assailed. Every man's liberty must be assured. (Applause.) Efforts were being made to curse the Territory with political freedom and religious bondage. (Applause.) The grievances of the people had been rehearsed by the previous speakers. Those who had been sent to govern and execute the laws had acted themselves with political adventures. With a few honorable exceptions, had the governors sent here sought to gain the confidence of the people or identified themselves with their interests. Is it not time we had a change? (Applause.) Mary, Queen of England, said, if her heart could be seen, the word "Calais" would be found written upon it. The present Governor should be branded in his conscience, and on his front, so that he could not be mistaken, for trying to defeat the express will of the people. (Applause.) This, together with trying to snatch certain officers from the gift of the people were wrongs never to be forgotten. The services of the Commission, it was designed, were to be dispensed with on the Legislature providing for certain emergencies, and on the Legislature enacting such a measure, the present Governor vetoed it. It was time we protested against such measures as these. (Applause.) The Edmunds act, passed March 22, 1882, provided for the punishment of polygamy, was interpreted to mean punishing men who cohabited with more than one woman, whether inside or outside the marriage relation. It was being interpreted to affect the Mormons and the Mormons alone. It had been thought it had been enacted in the interests of morality, but that was found to be a mistake. (Applause.) Women of chastity and purity had entered into the marriage relation, believing they were doing God's will. (Applause.) The homes of the Mormons were dear to them; they were not such as prevailed in the world; they were centers where Christian principles were taught and revered. (Applause.) Is it not time we protested against such unhallowed proceedings as invaded those homes? (Cries of "Yes" and applause.) The undignified actions of the minions of the law in spying and spotting he denounced as infamous. (Applause.) While these efforts were being made to demolish homes and incarcerate good men, harlots and whomongers must not be touched by the Federal officials here. Unhallowed measures never changed the consciences of mankind. Persecution had failed of that in olden times; the rack, the gibbet had been used against the old reformers who had maintained their belief in what had been revealed from God. (Applause.) The oppressive measures instituted against the Mormons and their doctrines would not accomplish the ends for which they were intended. (Applause.) We are contending for our homes, privileges and rights guaranteed to all citizens of the United States, and we were willing to grant the same to all mankind. (Loud applause.) The undertaking was a noble one. They did not propose to rebel against the institutions of the country, but to uphold them. We will not be torn from those pillars of liberty, unless they drag the pillars with us. (Thunderous applause.) In the name of a free people, contending for our just rights we should give our votes to sustain this declaration of our rights and protest. (Loud and continued applause.)

Mr. Caine said, if the audience were satisfied with the discussion, he would put the adoption of the Declaration and Protest to vote.

The sea of hands that went up was a moving solid mass, and the "Aye" accompanying the uprising was absolutely deafening.

T. G. Wrenner said: It is proposed that a delegation composed of J. T. Caine, J. W. Taylor and J. Q. Cannon, be appointed by this meeting to carry the protest and declaration to Washington. The vote on this was unanimous as the preceding one.

The choir sang the national hymn, "America."

Before putting the adjournment motion, Chairman Caine thanked the choir, Professor Daynes and the bands for the music furnished during the afternoon.

The meeting was then, on motion of Mayor Sharp, adjourned without day.

Mothers.

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The amount of capital stock is \$300,000.00  
The capital stock paid up is 250,000.00  
The amount of its assets is 441,572.92  
The amount of its liabilities (including capital) is 374,331.15  
The net surplus over all liabilities is 67,241.77  
The receipts during the year were 324,294.68  
The expenditures during the year were 322,166.28

S. W. DARKE & CO.,  
Attorneys for Utah.  
JOHN H. WIRE, President.  
CHAS. A. LATON, Secretary.

Sworn to by Chas. A. Laton, before J. H. WIRE, Notary Public, San Francisco, January 27th, 1885.

### HAMBURG-MAGDEBURG Fire Insurance Co.

#### OF HAMBURG, GERMANY.

The amount of capital stock is \$625,000.00  
The capital stock paid up is 625,000.00  
The amount of its assets is 645,592.13  
The amount of its liabilities (including capital) is 673,359.08  
The net surplus over all liabilities is 22,233.06  
The receipts during the year were 66,660.50  
The expenditures during the year (including \$4,230.00 amount of stockholders' dividends) were 100,207.59

S. W. DARKE & CO.,  
Attorneys for Utah.  
GUTTE & FRANK,  
Managers for Pacific Coast.

Sworn to by J. Gutte, before JAMES C. KING, Notary Public, in San Francisco, April 20, 1885.

### UNION Fire and Marine Insurance Co.

#### OF PHILADELPHIA.

The amount of capital stock is \$1,000,000.00  
The capital stock paid up is 400,000.00  
The amount of its assets is 1,207,289.32  
The amount of its liabilities (including capital) is 865,887.33  
The net surplus over all liabilities is 340,702.06  
The receipts during the year were 608,831.08  
The expenditures during the year were 658,178.06

S. W. DARKE & CO.,  
Attorneys for Utah.  
JACOBS & EASTON,  
Managers for Pacific Coast.

Sworn to by Julius Jacobs, before CHARLES E. KELLY, Notary Public, in San Francisco, March 26, 1885.

### MERCHANTS' INSURANCE CO.

#### OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

The amount of capital stock is \$1,000,000.00  
The capital stock paid up is 400,000.00  
The amount of its assets is 1,207,289.32  
The amount of its liabilities (including capital) is 865,887.33  
The net surplus over all liabilities is 340,702.06  
The receipts during the year were 608,831.08  
The expenditures during the year were 658,178.06

S. W. DARKE & CO.,  
Attorneys for Utah.  
JACOBS & EASTON,  
Managers for Pacific Coast.

Sworn to by Julius Jacobs, before CHARLES E. KELLY, Notary Public, in San Francisco, March 26, 1885.

### OREGON Fire and Marine Insurance Co.

#### OF PORTLAND, OREGON.

The amount of capital stock is \$300,000.00  
The capital stock paid up is 220,100.00  
The amount of its assets is 277,673.96  
The amount of its liabilities (including capital) is 250,794.41  
The net surplus over all liabilities is 26,879.55  
The receipts during the year were 62,924.49  
The expenditures during the year were 32,714.92

S. W. DARKE & CO.,  
Attorneys for Utah.  
JACOBS & EASTON,  
Managers for Pacific Coast.

Sworn to by Julius Jacobs, before CHARLES E. KELLY, Notary Public, in San Francisco, March 26, 1885.

### PRUSSIAN National Insurance Co.

#### OF STETTIN, GERMANY.

The amount of capital stock is \$2,250,000.00  
The capital stock paid up is 562,500.00  
The amount of its assets is 3,106,155.79  
The amount of its liabilities (including capital) is 2,325,868.72  
The net surplus over all liabilities is 840,287.07  
The receipts during the year were 894,508.31  
The expenditures during the year were 543,924.09

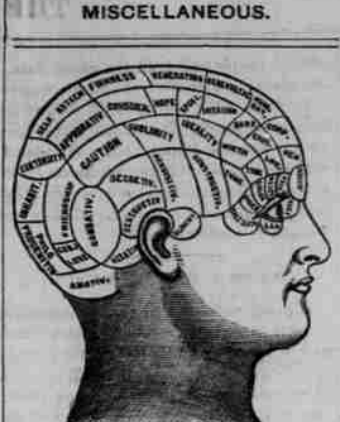
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